

10 March 2023

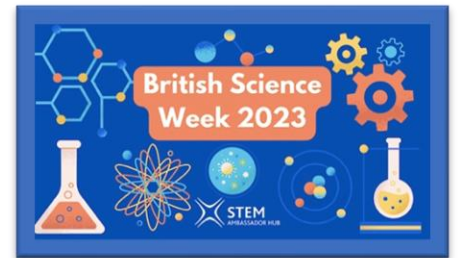
MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"We realize the importance of our voice when we are silenced." – **Malala Yousafzai**

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the event of extreme inclement weather, such as when heavy falls of snow develops overnight and continues into the following day or extreme icy conditions occur, there will always be a possibility of school closures. Whenever possible, William Murdoch Primary School will endeavour to remain open. However, we must consider the safety of all our children and staff, some of whom travel a great distance into school each day. Unfortunately, today we had to reluctantly close the school following a site inspection and a risk assessment. Mrs Pannu has posted some fun snow related activities for children to do on Class Dojo which make the most of the adverse weather.

Next week we will be marking Science Week with some exciting workshops and activities planned for the children. Children will also take part in the British Science Week poster competition, with the very best entries sent off to the competition organisers. Please look out for more details and photos of the Science Week activities in next week's newsletter.



Parents' Evening

Please note the spring term parents' evening is scheduled for the week commencing 20 March 2023. The Lower School parents' evening will take place on Monday 20 March 2023 with the Upper School parents' evening being held on Wednesday 22 March 2023. Parents' evening will be held in the traditional way, with a five-minute appointment slot and an opportunity for parents to look through their child's books. A parents' evening appointment letter will be shared with you shortly.

Comic Relief

The school is supporting the Comic Relief appeal on Friday 17 March 2023. We are inviting all the children to take part in a non-uniform day for a £1.00 donation. Red Nose Day cookies will also be on sale during breaktime on the Friday costing 50p each. A letter will be sent out with further details early next week.



World Book Day Competition

We at William Murdoch want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents who sent in photos of their children reading in unusual places. We were blown away by the creativity and enthusiasm shown by these young readers. Who knew all these different places you could read!

As a token of our appreciation, we would like to offer each child who participated a free book to add to their personal library collection. We hope that this small gesture will encourage them to continue exploring new books and discovering the joy of reading in unexpected places. Thank you again for your support and for helping to cultivate a love of reading in your children.

Competition Winners



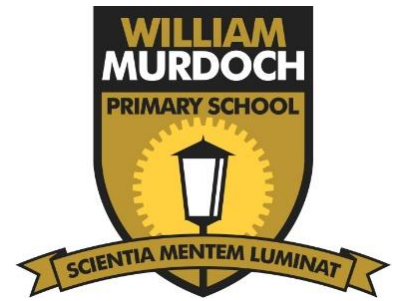
Luke Y2.2 reading outside his drum lesson centre, **Mohammed Y3.1** reading in a freezer, **Isha Y4.2** reading in the bath and **Taranveer Y2.3** reading in his Thai Boxing class.

WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTROBUS ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9NT, TEL: 0121 554 0999, FAX: 0121 554 6332

EMAIL: enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk, WEB: www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



Govilon Residential Visit The Year 5 and 6 residential trip to Govilon Activity Centre is fast-approaching. If your child has secured a place on the visit, please ensure all monies are paid by the deadline of Friday 28 April 2023 to ensure they can attend what will be a memorable weekend.

Year 6 Secondary School Allocations

If you are the parent/carer of a child in Year 6, you should have received an offer email and letter naming the secondary school your child has been offered for entry in September 2023. You **do not** need to contact Birmingham School Admissions if you intend to accept your child's offer of a school place.

You only need to inform School Admissions if you are **refusing** the school place your child was offered, and this must be done by **Wednesday 29 March 2023**. Details of how to do this was included in your offer letter. If they are not informed by this date that you wish to refuse your offer, the secondary school will update their records to show the offer has been accepted.

We strongly encourage you to accept your offer, this is so your child has a guaranteed school place to attend in September 2023.

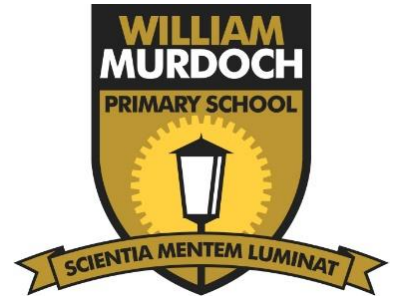
By refusing your offer, please be aware that your child's school place may be offered out to another child from that school's waiting list once they are made available. Your child will have **no school** to attend in September as School Admissions only make one school offer to a child. If a family refuses their school offer, they are not required to offer your child a place at an alternative school.

Your child will only be offered a place at another school if a place becomes available on the waiting list for one of your higher preferred schools due to waiting list movement once they are available, or if you appeal against the decision to refuse your child a place at one of your preferred schools and your appeal is subsequently upheld (successful).

The offer being accepted will not affect your child's waiting list position for any of your higher preference schools, or influence the outcome of any appeal you may submit.

If your child has not been offered a place at any of the schools that you applied for, this will be because the school(s) you applied for have received more applications than there were places available, and other children that better met the admission criteria than your child were offered those places. Details of the school admission criteria that all applicants are considered under are available here:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/24941/secondary_schools_admissions_criteria.



UNICEF Article of the Week

This week's 'Article of the Week' was based on International Women's Day which takes place every year on 8 March. This year the focus was on imagining a gender equal world where difference is valued and celebrated. The focus of the day was to [#EmbraceEquity](#). On this day children completed activities that celebrated the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. It is also a day which asks for people to act to speed up gender equality. The article covered was:



Article 2 (non-discrimination): The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

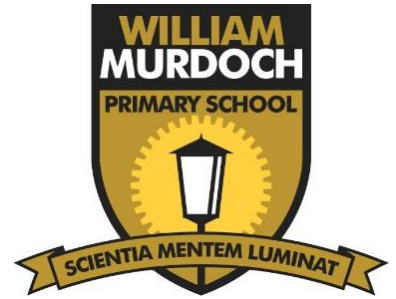
Book of the Week

Lower School



Suzie and the Moon Bugs - Katie Tsang & Kevin Tsang & Amy Nguyen (illustrator)

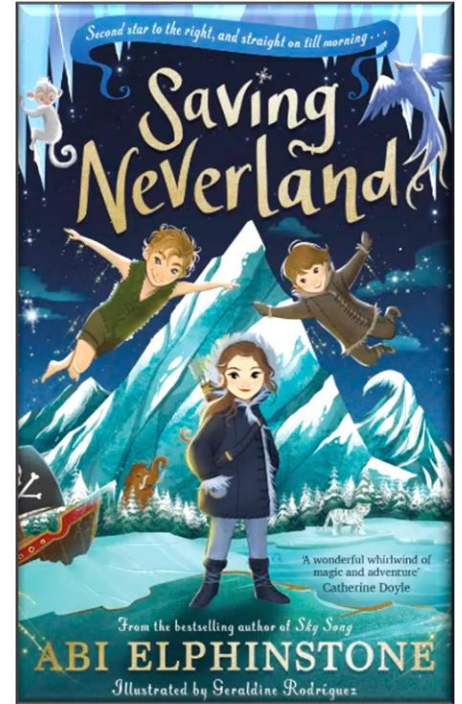
This is the second book in the Space Blasters series. Full of illustrations and reader-friendly short chapters, it is bound to be a popular book with children. The series follows gadget-loving Suzie Wen, who finds herself on a laugh-out-loud adventure exploring space having already been tasked with saving the universe in the previous book. In this instalment, Suzie and her friends find themselves crash-landing on a mysterious and jungle-like planet, and their challenge is to deal with an infestation of moon bugs. It is great to see the inclusion of scientific enquiry approaches – something that isn't found very often in books for this age level. Science fiction and imaginative space settings weave with real life space facts and engineering information, offering plenty to occupy the minds of STEM-loving readers who will love the added pages from Suzie's inventors' notebooks. This high-energy science themed adventure will go down a treat with fans of Harley Hitch or Space Detectives.



Upper School

Saving Neverland - Abi Elphinstone

Martha doesn't have time to play anymore. Martha is ten, the age when you have to start acting like a grown-up. Not growing up comes with repercussions – like the Terrible Day – and Martha is not going to let that happen again. So, Martha now makes lists, not adventures, much to the confusion and disappointment of Scruff her younger brother, for whom adventure is like breathing, you can't live without it. However, Martha can't ignore the mystery of the window that would not close. Scruff maintained that it allowed the fairy in that ruffled his hair into a tangled nest every night. Martha thought that was just a silly childish notion, although she had to admit it was beginning to worry her. For several nights now, leaves had appeared by the open window but there were no trees on their street and more than that, their Father, who could identify every type of tree that grew at Kew Gardens, had to admit that he had never seen leaves like them.... Author of the Unmapped Chronicles and the Dreamsnatcher series, Elphinstone is no stranger to children's fiction writing, but taking on the re-writing of a children's classic of such magnitude as Peter Pan was a risky and controversial venture. Thankfully Elphinstone's adventurous spirit in real life translates wonderfully into a thrilling adventure that is accessible and enjoyable for younger readers as it is thought-provoking for older ones. Maybe we should all think about doing a little growing down instead of up?



Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Your sincerely,

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Key Dates

March 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3 World Book Day	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Girls Football Tournament Finals	11	12
13	14	15 1/2 visit to Warwick Castle	16	17 1/2 Mother's Day Assembly	18	19
20 Lower School Parents' Evening	21	22 Upper School Parents' Evening	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Y5 Easter Assembly Pupils Break up for Easter		